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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,357	08/02/2001	Keith Weinstein	20595-83	6029

7590

04/10/2003

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EXAMINER

SHEEHAN, JOHN P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 04/10/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/921,357	Applicant(s) WEINSTEIN, KEITH	
	Examiner John P. Sheehan	Art Unit 1742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the c v r sh et with the corr spondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I claims 1 to 14 in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed January 7, 2002 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered. Although applicants state that there is at least one Form PTO-1449 attached to the IDS the Examiner was unable to locate a Form PTO-1449.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Claims 1 to 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- I. It is not clear what it is that applicant is attempting to claim. Claims 1 to 8 are directed to a white gold composition, yet these claims do not recite the presence of gold. Claims 8 to 14 are directed to 10K, 14K and 18K gold

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compositions. Again, claims 8 to 14 are silent with respect to the presence of gold. Further, the alloy proportions recited in claims 8 to 14 add up to essentially 100 weight percent, in view of this the alloys recited in claims 8 to 14 are copper based alloys and not gold alloys.

II. In each of claims 6 and 8 to 14 it is not clear whether the proportion

modified preceding the "tin, cobalt, silicon/copper and boron/copper" refers to each of "tin, cobalt, silicon/copper and boron/copper" that is, each of "tin, cobalt, silicon/copper and boron/copper" is individually present in the recited amount or whether the recited proportion refers to the cumulative proportion for the total of the "tin, cobalt, silicon/copper and boron/copper" content.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000.

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Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yan et al. (Yan, US Patent No. 6,413,651).

6. Yan teaches an alloy consisting essentially of copper, silver, zinc and manganese (column 5, lines 65 to column 6, line 1). As drafted applicant's claim 1 encompasses Yan's alloy.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rabinkin et al. (Rabinkin, US Patent No. 4,587,097).

8. Rabinkin teaches specific example alloys encompassed by applicants claim 1, (see column 4, Table 1, Alloys 11 to 14, 16 and 17).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1, 3, 5 and ~~8 to 14~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Rabinkin et al. (Rabinkin, US Patent No. 4,587,097) or Sloboda et al. (Sloboda, US Patent No. 4,049,434).

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11. Each of the references teaches an alloy having a composition that overlaps the alloy composition recited in the instant claims (see Rabinkin, column 4, lines 8 to 13 and 55 to 60 and Sloboda, column 1, lines 33 to 40).

The claims and the references differ in that the references do not teach the exact same proportions as recited in applicants' claims.

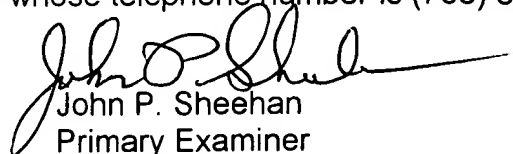
However, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have considered the invention to have been obvious because the alloys taught by the references overlap applicants' claimed alloy and therefore are considered to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, In re Malagari, 182 USPQ 549 and MPEP 2144.05.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John P. Sheehan whose telephone number is (703) 308-3861. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (6:30-5:00) Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (703) 308-1146. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.


John P. Sheehan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1742

jps
April 7, 2003